



1/6/00

Greetings in the New Year

Posoh Fellow Menominees

Well as you know it is finally election time. I've tried very hard to not give any credence to the ridiculous rumors that are being spread by some of the candidates but I feel that it is necessary to respond at this time. Some tribal members received a letter from one of the candidates who said that I would not allow his letter in the Menominee Nation News. This is a bold faced lie. Yvonne Kaquatosh is the editor of the Menominee Nation News and she has full edit and approval of all articles that are submitted.

We take pride in the fact that our paper is not censored, as it was during this man's term when he served as Vice-Chairman. As a matter of

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fact, the editor, Yvonne Kaquatosh was replaced by another individual who followed the directives of their administration. When Wendell, Eugene and I were elected three years ago, one of the first things we did was place Yvonne back as editor of the paper and declared her to have the final approval. That is the way it continues to be today.

This man also infers that I have **"private deals that none of us know about."** He in fact had his sister ask me about the one percent I have in the **Kenosha Project**. It is a fact that anyone holding any interest in the project must be back grounded and approved. That means our Gaming Commission knows now or will know by the time they finish back grounding every investor exactly who owns any interest in the Kenosha project. It has also been confirmed that I do not nor does any of my family hold any interest in the Kenosha Project.

My fellow tribal members, what is true is that this is the most important project the Tribe has ever undertaken. And let me say that at least two other candidates that served on the Legislature in the past 10 years had the same if not better opportunity to move this project but they didn't. That's right for 8 years this project lay dormant with absolutely no movement. Then we, Wendell, Eugene and I, got elected and we moved this project to the point we're at today. We're putting together the last phase of our work in the financials and then we make our presentation to the Washington BIA and NIGC (National Indian Gaming Commission). Now let me tell you that the same team that brought us this far, needs to be the same team who knows how to finish this project. These other candidates didn't even know how to move it to first base and now they want to jeopardize the opportunity of a life time for their own selfish reasons.

You know I was visiting Merlin Red Cloud from the Ho-Chunk Nation and he took me on a tour of their operation in Black River Falls. They are building each person or couples over 55 years of age a \$100,000 home (All Ho-Chunk!) and will eventually build for every adult couple. They own a whole city block in town, they own a credit union, and are part owner of many commercial businesses in the area that are of national presence. They maintain over \$200 million in the bank in Black River Falls and they still give their people a healthy per capita share every quarter. They even have extra housing for families in transit. Their kids and adults go to college and don't have to worry about bills and other expenses. They are doing wonderful things because they have a casino that generated the revenues to support all these activities. If or when we get the final approval of our Kenosha Project, that's the kind of stuff we want for you. We are doing it, let us finish it. Support Wendell Askenette, Eugene Caldwell, and myself on January 12 & 13, 2000. Thank you and hope we all have a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Apesanahkwat
Honorable Tribal Chairman